



DELAWARE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

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The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Minutes of the Full Commission Meeting Held April 11, 2006

In attendance:

<i>Commission Members Present</i>	<i>Ex-officios Present</i>
W. Vanderwende, Chair	W. Rohrer
D. Baker	G. Llewellyn
M. Adkins	<i>Others Present</i>
C. Solberg	M. Cooke, DAG
R. Sterling	K. Foskey
B. Schilling	G. Binford
E. Lewandowski	T. May
C. Fifer	S. Kepfer
R. Baldwin	P. Sample
T. Keen	S. Hollenbeck
J. Manchester	B. Coleman
<i>Commission Members Absent</i>	T. Garrahan
C. West	
B. O'Neill	
C. Larimore	

This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by 29 Del. C. §10004 et al.

Minutes:

Call to Order/Welcome:

Chairman B. Vanderwende called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

J. Manchester noted the following correction to the March 14, 2006 Full Commission meeting:

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Research facility is in Beltsville not Huntsville.

E. Lewandowski motioned to approve the March 14, 2006 Full Commission meeting minutes with the notes correction. J. Manchester seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion and Action Items:

Review and Act on Continuing Education Recommendations.

C. Solberg noted recommendations to Continuing Education are recommended. He asked B. Rohrer to provide a summary. Summary of the recommendations follow:

- Banking of Credits: The solution is based on how the database is structured; credits are valid for three years.
- Relevance of course topic to the certification level: The topic of the course will clearly identify the certification level the course focuses on.
- Letter to certification holders: The expiration date noted in the letter that is mailed to all certification holders will be bolded.
- B. Rohrer noted all the recommendations are administrative and the program can adapt to them easily.

C. Solberg noted also, G. Binford has been asked to provide the plan for Ag Week well in advance.

Review and Act on DNREC Biosolids Report:

B. Rohrer noted R. Graeber and S. Rohm of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) provided a Biosolids Report annually and has done so for the past five years. R. Graeber presented the Biosolids Annual Report (attached to minutes) and details were provided.

Review and Act on Alternative Use Proposal:

B. Rohrer reported the Technology Subcommittee reviewed the Alternative Use Proposal (attached to minutes) from JCR Enterprises, Inc, which is partnered with Allen's. Discussion ensued concerning the particulars of the proposal.

T. Keen motioned to approve the proposal as an Alternative Use. J. Manchester seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

J. Manchester provided a copy of a handout (attached to minutes) to the Technology Subcommittee members to review for discussion at the next meeting. The handout was shared with all the members of the Full Commission.

T. Keen, Chairman of the Technology Subcommittee, reported of the subcommittee discussed Phosphorus Saturation Ratio. The subcommittee is currently discussing the topic and should come to closure soon.

B. Vanderwende reported Senator Still is trying to introduce a bill to bring back incinerators. B. Vanderwende noted incinerators are easier than composters. This may be a good way to dispose of dead birds and the Commission should write a letter of support if it is determined the Commission will support the bill. It was noted currently there is a permitting issue. Discussion ensued concerning incinerators. B. Rohrer noted the Commission was on the record three years ago and provided reports to the General Assembly, copies could be provided. He further noted the Commission could review the draft bill.

Summarize Commission Annual Report:

An outline of the 2005 Annual Report (attached to minutes) was provided. Highlights of the discussion follow:

Certification and Continuing Education: G. Binford reported certification sessions are offered two times a year. The next session scheduled start on August 30, 2006. Focus is on Continuing Education Programs.

Research and Demonstration: G. Binford reported the temporary storage of poultry litter research project has started October 2005. G. Binford reported everything is on target. G. Binford is looking for funding for the second year and has submitted a proposal for the Conservation and Innovation Grant. It was noted Maryland is interested and is looking for available funding. The second part of this project was to look at different stockpile covers and bases and is on target. Discussion ensued concerning how soil samples are taken.

G. Binford reported the on-going project which began in 2000 has continued. This project has been modified slightly, but has been able to look at residual effects of poultry litter and different application rates as it relates to impact on crop yield.

Another on-going project G. Binford provided a report on is overall nitrogen management. This project is looking at rates of nitrogen and different ways to impact efficiency.

Relocation and Planning: 84,822 tons of manure has been relocated or sent to an alternative use. 112,447 acres are managed under a plan.

Formal Agreement with Poultry Companies: New section of the Annual Report.

Phosphorus Management and Phytase: Poultry feed amended with phytase results in a 23% reduction in manure liter phosphorus.

T. Keen noted the pre-sidedress soil nitrate test results is a little misleading. Discussion ensued as to why.

D. Baker commended the Program Administrator and his staff for putting together a very fine annual report. E. Lewandowski supported Commissioner Baker's comments and elaborated that the report shares successes of the program and the work B. Rohrer and his staff does.

C. Solberg stated it would be interesting to compare previous year's annual reports to this year.

Administrator's Report:

B. Rohrer opened by reporting the Nutrient Management Program is fully staffed with the introduction of B. Coleman.

Complaints: There has been one informal complaint since the March meeting.

Budget: Refer to Administrator's Report attached.

Nutrient Management Planning: 691,690 total acreage to date with 63,201 plans (Private) and 10,119 plans (Public) for 2006.

Nutrient Management Relocation: 161,763 total tons relocated to date with 40,381 for 2006.

Certification: 2,206 certifications have been approved.

CAFO Update: Refer to Administrator's Report attached.

20% Mandate for 2006: Refer to the Administrator's Report attached.

Freedom of Information Act Request: N/A

J. Manchester referred to the State of Delaware Fertilizer Tonnage corrected report for FY 1995 – FY 2005. Inorganic P₂O₅ was reduced in half, but it has leveled out.

J. Manchester motioned having the staff look into whether the inorganic P₂O₅ could be reduced by half again.

B. Schilling's position is this is not a problem as it has been cut in half and there will always be some use. J. Manchester stated it was cut in half once and could be cut in half again.

D. Baker stated this could be handled as a direction to the Program Administrator and did not need to be in the form of a motion. B. Vanderwende agreed and asked B. Rohrer and staff to check into this.

J. Manchester noted there have been some reductions in nitrogen, but it has leveled out. He noted having a significant number of samples testing more than 10ml of nitrate. J. Manchester finds this a problem and suggested having this looked at with a report following with suggestions as how to resolve this.

T. Keen stated when poultry manure is removed from an area, the phosphorus is not replaced, but the nitrogen must be replaced. J. Manchester stated the nitrogen is getting into the water. T. Keen stated he has mentioned in the past that if an organic source of nitrogen is taken out the nitrate problem is compounded.

E. Lewandowski suggested contacting B. Omen at the College of Marine Studies.

Subcommittee Reports:

Technology:

The report of the Technology Subcommittee was provided earlier.

Program & Education:

The report of the Program and Education Subcommittee was provided earlier.

Public Comments:

NONE

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Full Commission is scheduled for May 9, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment:

Chairman Vanderwende adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Approved,

W. Vanderwende, Chairman

WRR/mrp